

Torrance, California  
April 15, 1942

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Wednesday, April 15, 1942 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those present being  
Councilmen: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. Absent:  
Councilmen: Kail.

Everyone present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag!

Councilman Powell moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held March 24, 1942, of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held March 27, 1942, of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held April 7, 1942, and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held April 10, 1942 be approved as read. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the City of Los Angeles, office of the City Clerk, together with a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Los Angeles on March 31, 1942, relative to the proposed consolidation of the governments of the County of Los Angeles and the separate municipalities constituting the urban population of Los Angeles County into one governmental body, to be known as Greater Los Angeles. Thirty-five cities were listed as constituting the area proposed to be consolidated.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be filed for future reference. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the City of Beverly Hills in connection with the resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Los Angeles having reference to proposed consolidation of various Cities in Los Angeles County with unincorporated territory, to be governed by a Board of Supervisors, and advising that a resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Beverly Hills at a Regular Meeting held April 7, 1942 to the effect that the Council is of the opinion that no economy would be effected by the suggested consolidation and that such consolidation would not be in the interest of good management.

A communication was read from Shell Oil Company, enclosing check in the amount of \$1,050.00 as payment for the installation of approximately 17,320 feet of 10 inch pipe line in the city streets in accordance with provisions of Section 10 of Franchise Ordinance No. 328. Matter of record.

A communication was read from James Lewis, Master Shipwright, advising that the statement of City Engineer Jain to the effect that Mr. Lewis has refused to make necessary repairs to the building in Walteria owned by him and used by the City of Torrance on a rental basis, for library purposes, is incorrect. Mr. Lewis advised of his willingness to make all repairs necessary and offered to build a library building on the adjoining property if the City would consider a lease in accordance with the investment required.

Mr. Jain advised that his information regarding Mr. Lewis' refusal to make repairs to the building was second-hand information.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication from James Lewis pertaining to the Walteria library building be referred to the Library Board for action and report at the next meeting. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Gardena Valley Japanese American Citizens League, expressing appreciation of Japanese, American people, citizen and alien, for pleasant associations during past years. A copy of the Japanese-American Creed was enclosed.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be filed. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Joe A. Landerville, requesting removal of pepper tree from 2103 Cabrillo Avenue.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be referred to the Street Department for action. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from E. W. Sheets, and R. R. Thompson, requesting permission to park a house trailer on Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Company land for the duration of the War, said land having been evacuated by the Japanese.

Engineer Jain advised that Mr. Sheets and Mr. Thompson desire to park a house trailer on the property for occupancy by them, their intention being to save the strawberry crop on the property, although, he added, to do so would be in violation of the trailer ordinance of the City of Torrance.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be referred to the Planning Commission for report at the next regular meeting. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion.

Engineer Jain pointed out that if the trailer is parked, it will be in violation of the trailer ordinance and not the zoning ordinance, at which time Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be referred to the entire City Council and the City Engineer for investigation, a definite time as soon as possible to be set for inspection by the City Council and the City Engineer of the location mentioned by Mr. Sheets and Mr. Thompson. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. Norma Anderson, requesting removal of acacia trees. Councilman Powell advised that the trees are on Maricopa Place and are in deplorable condition, Councilman Hitchcock agreeing with him.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Street Department be authorized to remove the acacia tree which is causing most of the damage complained of by Mrs. Norma Anderson. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A petition bearing forty signatures of residents of Pueblo district was read, requesting that a baseball field be constructed at Pueblo.

Councilman Babcock moved that the petition be referred to the Recreation Committee for report at the next regular meeting. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Clifford F. Reid, Inc., calling attention to the fact that said company, together with the Huntington-Redondo Company, has been paying cost of watering the shrubbery in the park-ways at Hollywood Riviera, and requesting the City Council to bear the cost of watering the shrubbery on two main streets in the vicinity.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be referred to the City Engineer for investigation and report. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Kail arrived at 8:04 P.M.

A communication was read from the City of Santa Ana, enclosing certified copy of Resolution No. 3117 of the City of Santa Ana, adopted by the City Council of said City at a Special Meeting held April 13, 1942, in which it was resolved by the Council that the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California be requested to take no action whereby it would agree to furnish an emergency water supply to any city, district or other municipality, unless and until such time as such petitioning city shall become a member of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and assume its just share of the cost of erection, maintenance and other expenses incidental thereto, to date.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be referred to Mr. Charles F. Rippy, Representative of the City of Torrance on the Metropolitan Water District Board, with the request that Mr. Rippy make a report to the City Council pertaining to the question of furnishing an emergency water supply to cities not members of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, pertaining to installation by the Aluminum Corporation of America of a 24" sewer line on Western Avenue and 203rd Street to connect with the Los Angeles County Sanitation District #5 trunk line. He advised that Mr. Stimsen, Construction Engineer for the Aluminum Corporation, has submitted to the City Engineer's office plan and profile covering this work. It was further stated that the Aluminum Company has offered to deed this sewer line, when constructed, to the City of Torrance in lieu of paying for private right of way. Mr. Jain recommended that the City Council go on record as approving the construction of this line, as per plan and profile submitted to the City Engineer and approved by the County Sanitation District, with the addition that service chimneys be constructed at intervals of fifty feet along all that portion of the line within the City of Torrance, to service adjacent properties, and that the manholes be placed at distances not to exceed 350 feet. Mr. Jain further recommended that the City of Torrance furnish necessary field inspection.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the recommendations of Engineer Jain be accepted and complied with in accordance with Engineer Jain's communication. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Automobile Club of Southern California, suggesting a five-point program of automobile and tire conservation, which, if generally followed, will assure a maximum of use of existing automotive equipment. A form of resolution recommending the five points included in the plan was submitted for consideration and possible adoption. It was advised further that windshield stickers will be furnished by the Automobile Club free of charge for distribution to the motoring public, and requested to be notified if the stickers are desired.

A short discussion ensued pertaining to speed limits, Chief Stroh advising that decrease from the fifty-five mile per hour limit is contemplated. He suggested that the Resolution, if adopted, would possibly have the effect of making motorists more conscious of the automotive equipment restrictions and of assuring voluntary cooperation with President Roosevelt's request that motorists observe a maximum speed limit of 40 miles per hour.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full:

RESOLUTION NO. 1527

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE URGING CON-  
SERVATION OF AUTOMOTIVE EQUIPMENT.

Councilman Powell moved that Resolution No. 1527 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from C. Z. Ward, Manager, Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, requesting permission to place benches at the Beacon Drug Store, Cabrillo Avenue at El Prado across from the Pacific Electric Railway Company Depot, East side of Madrid Avenue South of Torrance Boulevard, and on the South side of Carson Street East of Cabrillo Avenue. It was requested that certain curbs, fifty-one in number, be painted red for a space of fifty feet for bus stop zones.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be referred to the City Engineer and Police Department for investigation and report of approximate cost at the next meeting. Councilman Kail seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication addressed to W. H. Stanger, Manager, Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, and approved by Mr. Stanger, was read from Edith B. Smith, requesting permission to begin her vacation May 25, 1942 and return to work June 3, 1942, the balance of her vacation period to be taken at a later date.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request of Edith B. Smith an employee of Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, to be allowed to begin her vacation May 25, 1942 and return to work June 3, 1942, balance of her vacation period to be taken at a later date, be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from W. H. Stanger, Manager, Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, advising of the necessity of employing two additional guards for the duration of the war or until such time as it will be reasonably safe to discontinue guarding the Water Department premises, one guard to replace a regular Water Department employee in order that he can be returned to his regular duties, and the other to be used for relief work to keep the working hours within forty hours per week. Also, Mr. Stanger advised that the Water Department should have a relief girl for cashier to work Saturdays, vacation periods, and to relieve in case of sickness.

Councilman Powell moved that the matter be referred to the entire City Council, and that Mr. Stanger be requested to remain and meet with the Council immediately after adjournment of this meeting for discussion of the matter. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from W. H. Stanger, Manager, Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, requesting the City Council to rescind or withdraw the Resolution adopted March 10, 1942 authorizing the Municipal Water District No. 1 to purchase ten one thousand dollar Series G. Defense Bonds, inasmuch, Mr. Stanger stated, as he had ascertained that the Water District cannot invest money in speculative bonds.

Mr. Stanger requested that an emergency fund be set up within the Water District for use only in case of emergency and to protect the Water District against a fund shortage.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1519, adopted at a Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Torrance held



March 10, 1942, be rescinded. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock moved that Mr. Stanger's request that an emergency fund be established within the Water District for use only in case of emergency be discussed at the same time employment of guards and a cashier is considered, i.e., immediately upon adjournment of this meeting, for report at the next regular meeting. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Logan R. Cotton, City Auditor, recommending transfer from the Motor Vehicle Act Fund to the General Fund of the City of \$14,133.39 and transfer from the Motor Vehicle License Fund to the General Fund of the City of \$25,020.62, subject to approval of the City Attorney. Attorney McCall approved the abovementioned transfers verbally at this time.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the recommendation of Logan R. Cotton, City Auditor, that \$14,133.39 be transferred from the Motor Vehicle Act Fund to the General Fund of the City and that \$25,020.62 be transferred from the Motor Vehicle License Fund to the General Fund of the City, upon approval of the City Attorney, be complied with. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the contract for removal of trackage and overhead facilities on Cabrillo Avenue between Torrance Boulevard and Plaza del Amo be awarded to Oilfields Trucking Company in accordance with the bid opened at the meeting of April 7, 1942, and that all other bids be rejected and checks returned to unsuccessful bidders. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that all bids opened at a Regular Meeting held February 10, 1942 for repairs and remodeling Fire Department Building at 1523 Cravens Avenue be rejected and checks returned to bidders. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$350.00 be made for galvanized pipe for sprinkler system on Plaza del Amo. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

William F. Barta, Attorney, representing the Coast Brick Company of Torrance, addressed the Council in the matter of a case commenced in the Superior Court of Los Angeles seeking to restrain the City of Torrance from enforcing certain provisions of Ordinance 316 against the Coast Brick Company. Mr. Barta stated that in the original hearing of the Coast Brick Company before the Planning Commission, it was felt that the case had not been sufficiently presented, and that his clients had failed to avail themselves of the provision in the ordinance which enabled them to take their appeal to the City Council within ten days after the decision of the Planning Commission.

Mr. Barta stated that he had sought a temporary injunction restraining the City of Torrance from enforcing provisions of the ordinance as above mentioned, at which time City Attorney McCall had filed a demurrer and the case had been continued to the 21st day of April, 1942.

He requested that his clients be granted a hearing before the City Council to appeal from the decision of the Planning Commission, stating that, although the ordinance contains that provision which limits the appeal to ten days of the findings of the Planning Commission, he felt sure that this is a benefit or advantage which might be waived by the City. He said it is the desire of his clients to exhaust the remedy before proceeding further with the court action and added that he felt if his clients are granted a re-hearing and allowed to present their evidence, they might be granted a variance from Ordinance No. 316. If denied the variance, he said, the only resort then would be to continue the court action. He requested that if his clients are granted the privilege of a hearing before the City Council that some time certain be fixed in order that evidence can be submitted to the City Council for its determination.

He added that denial of a variance will impose upon his clients a considerable capital loss.

Mr. Barta made reference to his original communication in which a hearing before the City Council was requested, stating that he had received no definite answer to same. Councilman Hitchcock read that portion of the minutes of March 24, 1942 pertaining to the subject. Clerk Bartlett advised that, before there had been time to answer the communication and advise that the matter had been referred to the Planning Commission as evidenced by the March 24, 1942 minutes, a summons had been served in connection with the suit in the Superior Court.

Attorney McCall advised he had forgotten that the matter had been referred back to the Planning Commission, and had stated to the Court that he felt convinced that the City Council would not want to win the case on a technicality and he was therefore willing that the motion of the plaintiff for a continuance be granted so that the attorneys for plaintiff could appear before the Council and request that the Statute of Limitations be waived.

Mayor McGuire suggested that Mr. Barta be notified within a few days of the decision of the City Council as to whether or not it desires to waive the Statute of Limitations and hear the appeal. Mr. Barta requested to be notified by April 21, 1942, date set for hearing the case, if possible. he

When asked if his clients would/willing to dismiss the case if granted a hearing before the City Council, Mr. Barta advised that if favorable action results from the re-hearing, his clients will naturally dismiss the case, but if action is unfavorable to his clients, they will resort to the courts.

Mayor McGuire advised that to give an answer by April 21, 1942 allows very little time to contact all persons concerned. Mr. Barta conferred with his clients for a short time, advising that his clients would be willing to wait until the next council meeting for an answer, he and Mr. McCall to stipulate on April 21, 1942 that the case be continued. Mr. McCall agreed to this arrangement.

Councilman Hitchcock contended that, inasmuch as the City Council had originally acted upon recommendation of the Planning Commission in the matter of the Coast Brick Company, the normal procedure would be for the re-hearing to be held before the Planning Commission and the Commission's recommendation submitted to the City Council for action. He stated that inasmuch as it had been referred back to the Planning Commission by Council action of March 24, 1942, he felt it would be out of order to order a hearing before the City Council at this time, before hearing from the Planning Commission.

Attorney McCall advised the Council that three measures can be resorted to as follows: (1) The City Council can allow the

order that the matter be referred back to the Planning Commission stand, or (2) rescind the motion of March 24, 1942 referring the matter back to the Planning Commission, and waive the Statute of Limitations and hear the appeal, or (3) hand down a decision that the City Council refuses to waive the Statute of Limitations.

He stated further that if it is referred back to the Planning Commission and the Commission grants a re-hearing, evidence can be presented and if the Commission renders an adverse decision, there will be ten days in which the appeal can be submitted to the City Council.

A lengthy discussion ensued as to whether the matter should be referred to the City Council at this time, or whether the order of March 24, 1942 should be allowed to stand. Mayor McGuire advised that the Planning Commission cannot reopen cases, but can only present recommendations to the City Council.

Councilman Babcock moved that the Mayor be instructed to call a Special Meeting of the Planning Commission for reviewing this matter and submitting a recommendation to the City Council. No. second was heard to this motion.

A joint meeting between the City Council and the Planning Commission for discussion as to whether or not a re-hearing should be granted the Coast Brick Company in the matter of variance under Ordinance 316 of the City of Torrance was discussed.

It was decided to notify Mr. Barta within two weeks of the decision reached, Mr. Barta agreeing to continue the motion in court to allow time for the Planning Commission to meet and render a decision.

Mr. P. G. Eisen of the Architectural Firm of Walker and Eisen addressed the Council at this time, declaring the acute need in the City of Torrance for additional housing facilities to accommodate workers employed in plants producing war materials and equipment. He advised that the metropolitan area of Los Angeles is due to get 10,000 defense housing units in the near future and urged that the City of Torrance endeavor to interest the Federal Works Administration in building defense housing units in or near the City of Torrance, inasmuch, he said, as the City of Torrance, because of its highly centralized industrial district, is in urgent need of housing. He added that the City of Torrance has had less than its share of defense housing construction.

An example of the problem confronting the City, he said, is the new Aluminum Company of America plant, which will employ between one and three thousand workers who will be looking for housing accommodations in this vicinity.

He advised that the City of Compton has received 1,000 defense housing units through the Federal Works Administration, and the City of San Pedro 26,000 units. He informed that the units now being constructed will be substantial structures, since the Government plans to sell them to private owners after the war.

With the knowledge of the urgent need of housing accommodations in this locality, Mr. Eisen stated, he had contacted the Los Angeles City Housing Authority and submitted two locations which he deems suitable for location of defense housing units, the locations being (1) at the north gateway to the City of Torrance in the Shoestring strip between Western and Normandie Avenue, and (2) at the south entrance to the City on Sepulveda Boulevard. He advised that these locations are being favorably considered.

Mr. Eisen presented and read in full the draft of a letter prepared by him and addressed to the Federal Works Administration in which all facts pertaining to the matter were recited, and the urgency of securing housing facilities for workers in the industrial plants in Torrance manufacturing war supplies and equipment was stressed. Mr. Eisen suggested that the City Council send this letter to the FWA as a supporting effort in the attempt to obtain housing projects in the vicinity.

Councilman Babcock stated that, with reference to the location in the Shoestring Strip, he could see no reason why the City of Torrance should go on record as favoring building in the City of

Los Angeles, inasmuch as the taxpayers of Torrance would derive no benefit from such a transaction.

Mr. Eisen pointed out that the main interest at this time is to provide houses for workers employed in vital defense industries.

Councilman Powell remarked that it was his understanding that a committee is already functioning with the view of obtaining housing projects in the City of Torrance.

A short discussion ensued regarding transportation facilities in the City of Torrance, after which Mr. Eisen was requested to remain after the meeting for further discussion of the matter.

Mr. Stanger, Manager, Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, called attention to the fact that there are two members only on the Library Board and suggested that appointments be made for members whose terms have expired.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to advertise for bids for paving Cabrillo Avenue from Carson Street north to Torrance Boulevard upon approval of the plans by the State Highway Department, and provided the War Production Board allows this construction to proceed. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Attorney McCall reported that the County of Los Angeles has brought a condemnation suit and asked for a stipulation to the condemning of a piece of property at Crenshaw Boulevard and 166th Street. He advised that full details will be furnished in the near future, as Mr. Dunn, Valuation Engineer of the County of Los Angeles, a representative of the County Council, Attorney McCall and Engineer Jain plan to meet soon for complete discussion of the matter.


Councilman Babcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mr. Eisen remarked on the defective acoustical effect of the Council Chamber, and advised that a Celotex curtain or panel placed on the wall to the rear of the Council platform will remedy the situation entirely. He advised that total cost will not exceed \$50.00.

At 9:38 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned to April 21, 1942 at 7:45 P.M., for the purpose of canvassing the vote of the General Municipal Election held April 14, 1942.

  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

  
Mayor of the City of Torrance